

## ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

*The promise of a son is fulfilled.*



THE STORY: GENESIS 20

MONDAY

**As he waited in faith for God's promise, Abraham struggled to trust God.**

As he waited in faith for God's promise, Abraham struggled to trust God. Because Abraham was afraid the Egyptians might kill him to get to Sarah, his wife, he told Sarah to say that she was his sister whenever they came to a new land (verse 13), beginning when he first made his journey to Egypt (12:10-20). How kind of God to show us Abraham's weakness! God promised to bring Abraham a son but that hadn't happened yet. Although God had continually protected Abraham he struggled, just like us, to trust God. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25-34 to seek first God's kingdom and there will be no need to worry in our lives.

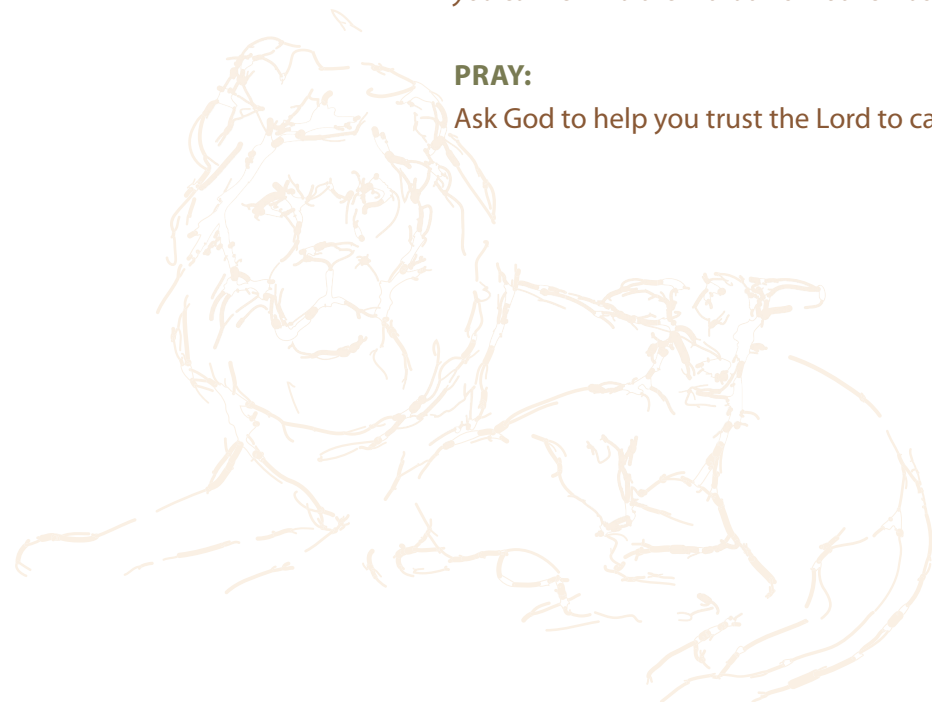
**TALK ABOUT IT:**

When are we tempted to worry and not trust God? *(Give your children examples from your life. Though parents often protect children from significant concerns, draw them out to see if they can give you examples from their lives.)*

What should Abraham have learned from the first time he asked Sarah to lie? *(If God protected him in a lie, God would surely protect him apart from a lie. Your children may say that Abraham was technically telling the truth since Sarah was his half-sister but you can remind them that his motive was to deceive because he was afraid.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you trust the Lord to care for your life and not worry or be afraid.





## God kept His Promise to Abraham

God kept His Promise to Abraham. After years and years of waiting, God finally fulfilled His promise to Abraham and gave Sarah a son. Sarah, who once laughed in her unbelief, now laughed with joy over what God had done. Abraham, who was 100 years old at the time of his son's birth, named his son Isaac just as God had commanded him (17:17). Finally, the promised son had come!

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Do you remember the many things God promised Abraham regarding Isaac? (See Genesis 17:19. *Not only would Abraham have a son, but the covenant promises to Abraham would be transferred to his son and then to Abraham's grandchildren. Through the fulfillment of the promise of a son, God would bless the nations.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for His faithfulness in fulfilling all His promises and ask Him to help you to trust Him for your life.



## Where is Jesus?

God intended to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah. When Sarah grew old, she suggested Abraham take a second wife who was younger in order to produce a son. Ishmael was the fruit of Abraham's own work—his attempt to make God's promise come about by his own effort. Isaac was a child supernaturally born in Sarah's old age. From the story of Abraham and Sarah, we learn that when God makes a promise, He will keep it. God's promise was fulfilled when Isaac was born and His plan was that through Isaac, Jesus would ultimately come. Jesus brought a salvation which is by faith, not works, so no one should boast.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Does God's choice of Abraham and Sara fit this pattern of choosing the lowly things of the world? (Yes, if one was going to pick a man to father a nation, he would not pick a man with no children who has a barren wife. In God's choosing of Abraham, God alone gets the credit.)

### PRAY:

Pray that God would help you to give Him the glory for all the good that comes from your life and pray that our boast would be in the Lord alone and what He has done.



## Ishmael mocked Isaac and was sent away.

Ishmael mocked Isaac and was sent away. Ishmael was caught mocking Isaac on the day of a great feast which Abraham held in Isaac's honor. Isaac means "laughter" of a joyful nature but Ishmael was caught laughing in a mocking tone against this child of great joy. In response, Sarah told Abraham to send Hagar and her son away and Abraham reluctantly obeyed when God affirmed Sarah's request. Because God cared for Abraham, He saved Hagar and Ishmael from dying of thirst and provided for their future just as He promised Abraham He would. This is a wonderful mercy.

In Galatians 4:21-31, Paul used this story to compare the old covenant of works with the new covenant of promise. The child of promise, Isaac, was to have no competition. Later in Genesis (chapter 22:2), it would be said of Isaac that he was Abraham's only son. So, again, we see the purpose of God in removing Ishmael from Abraham's household.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Was God unjust for judging Ishmael's laughter by allowing him to be sent away when He didn't judge Sarah's laughter when she heard God's promise of a son? *(At any point, every one of us deserves immediate death for our sin. Ishmael was no different. God's patience demonstrated to Sarah for her laughter and God's provision for Hagar and Ishmael are all of grace, none of it deserved.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for His grace which comes to us who deserve judgment.





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## On the road to Emmaus.

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In Revelation 5:5 Jesus is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. When Jacob prophesied over Judah, he called Judah the lion's cub and mentioned that the scepter shall not depart from him. In this he was referencing Christ. Jesus is the King of Kings who is eternal upon the throne. It is in Christ that this passage is fulfilled.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How was Jacob a further fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham? *(In Genesis 17:19, God clearly stated that His covenant would extend to Isaac's offspring. Abraham's grandson Jacob is the fulfillment of that promise.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for His faithfulness in keeping all His promises and ask Him to help you trust in His Word.

